

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1116

Tuesday, the 29th July 1941
14th Karkadagam 1116

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Honb'le the President (M. R. Ry. K. ACHYUTA MENON Avl., B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon and Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and T. V. Subramania Ayyar were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ALLEGED DEFALCATION IN AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

1. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether Government have detected any defalcation in the Agricultural Department as alleged in the article under caption “ധനപൊഹരണം” which appeared in *Deepam*, dated 19th March, page 6, column 3 ;
- (b) if so, the amount involved in the same ;
- (c) whether any action is being taken in the matter ;
- (d) the names of persons who are suspected ;
- (e) whether they are in service at present ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) The matter is under enquiry.

2. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether they have received any report from the Agricultural Department pointing out any defalcation in the Veterinary section ;
- (b) when was that report received in the Huzur Secretariat ;
- (c) whether any special or urgent audit was ordered to be conducted on receipt of that report ;

(d) if answer to (c) is in the negative, what was the reason for not ordering an audit to ascertain the extent of embezzlement;

(e) whether any explanation was called for from officers who were suspected of defalcation; when was that explanation called for; will Government be pleased to print and place on the table of the House a copy of the report referred to in (a)?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) Yes.

(b) On 6th March 1941.

(c) to (e) The matter is pending enquiry.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether any special or urgent audit was ordered to be conducted on receipt of that report?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether the Finance Department is conducting an audit of the accounts?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): What is the reason for this inordinate delay in making an enquiry on a report which called for urgent action?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There was no delay at all. The moment the petition was received by Government, the machinery of Government was set in motion to find out the truth or otherwise of the allegations. But it takes a lot of time to go through the various records for a period of five years. That was the reason. Action was immediately taken. There was no delay at all.

APPOINTMENTS IN CENTRAL FARM—CASTE-WAR LIST

3. **Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will Government be pleased to give.—

(a) a community-war list of persons who hold permanent posts in the Central Farm, Ollukkara, including the menial staff;

(Note: the classification adopted by the Staff Selection Board need be given)